

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT RICHARD LYONS BYLINER NEW YORK TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1 HEADED "FORD IS ASKED TO HELP CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON ACTIONS OF SOUTH KOREA."

2. THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE HAS ASKED PRESIDENT FORD FOR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AID IN UNDERTAKING A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF SOUTH KOREAN INFLUENCE-PEDDLING ON CAPITOL HILL.

3. THE REQUEST BY THE COMMITTEE'S DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN AND RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER HAS, IN TURN, SPURRED DEMANDS FOR SUCH AN INVESTIGATION BY FIVE OTHER HOUSE LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES, THUS MAKING SUCH AN INQUIRY ALMOST A CERTAINTY.

4. THE FORMAL REQUEST WAS MADE A WEEK AGO IN A LETTER SENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. FLYNT JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIAL CONDUCT, AND REPRESENTATIVE FLOYD D. SPENCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THE RANKING REPUBLICAN.

5. IT CAME 18 MONTHS AFTER THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STARTED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION IN WHICH IT HAS THUS FAR QUESTIONED SEVERAL DOZEN PERSONS, INCLUDING 14 PRESENT OR FORMER REPRESENTATIVES.

6. THE FLYNT-SPENCE LETTER, WHEN DISCLOSED TODAY, PROMPTED SUPPORTING REQUESTS FOR AN INVESTIGATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES JOHN J. RHODES OF ARIZONA, THE MINORITY LEADER; JOHN J. MCFALL OF CALIFORNIA, THE MAJORITY WHIP; JOHN BRADEMAS OF INDIANA, THE CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP; ROBERT H. MICHEL OF ILLINOIS, THE MINORITY WHIP; AND PHILLIP BURTON OF CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

7. MR. FLYNT SAID IF THE WHITE HOUSE DID NOT RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS HE WOULD MAKE THE SAME REQUEST OF JIMMY CARTER AFTER HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT ON JAN. 20.

8. ACCORDING TO MR. SPENCE, AN INVESTIGATION IS NEEDED BECAUSE "THERE'S SO MUCH SMOKE THERE ALMOST HAS TO BE FIRE."

9. FOR MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN DISCLOSURES THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAD ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION FAVORABLE TO THE REGIME OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE THROUGH CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, DINNERS AND JUNKETS TO SEOUL BY CONGRESSMEN.

10. BUT IT IS LESS CLEAR HOW SUCCESSFUL THE SOUTH KOREAN OPERATIONS WERE SINCE SUPPORT OF SOUTH KOREA HAS BEEN A CORNER STONE OF UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE FAR EAST FOR 30 YEARS.

11. REPRESENTATIVE BRADEMAS NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAD SOUGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO INFLUENCE POLICY IN BOTH THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS AND THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MAY HAVE GIVEN THE SEOUL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN THIS REGARD.

12. WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT THE FACTS, "MR. BRADEMAS SAID IN PUTTING HIMSELF IN SUPPORT OF A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY OF BOTH THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE

BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

13. MR. BRADEMAS RECEIVED \$4,650 IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARK TONG SUN, THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT INFLUENCE PEDDLING. HOWEVER, MR. BRADEMAS REPORTED THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN THEY WERE MADE IN 1972 AND 1974.

14. MR. RHODES, THE MINORITY LEADER, SAID, "THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH INSTANCES OF SOME PRETTY FLAGRANT CONDUCT ON THE PART OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT."

15. "IT IS WELL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT COULD ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, THE INVESTIGATIONS ARM OF CONGRESS.

16. REPRESENTATIVE ALBERT H. QUIE, REPUBLICAN OF MINNESOTA AND AN ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBER, ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE G.A.O. CONDUCT THE INQUIRY. HE QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ASSEMBLE A BIG STAFF, AS IT DID WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE. THAT INVESTIGATION COST MORE THAN \$200,000 AND DID NOT FIND THE SOURCE OF THE DISCLOSURE.

17. MR. QUIE SAID HE HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. MR. FLYNT SAID THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD SCATTERED DURING THE CONGRESSIONAL RECESS AND THAT HE HAD NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT WITH ALL OF THEM.

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18. MR. FLYNT SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATION, IF IT IS CONDUCTED BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE, WOULD PROBABLY DELVE INTO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER EITHER THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE HOUSE OR THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN VIOLATED BY THE ACCEPTANCE OF CASH, GIFTS, PARTIES AND TRIPS TO SEOUL.

19. WITH THE RELUCTANCE OF THE HOUSE TO INVESTIGATE ITSELF, THE COOPERATION OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WAS SOLICITED TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE TO DRAW ON THE INFORMATION IT HAS GATHERED DURING THE LAST 18 MONTHS. TO DO SO WOULD SAVE THE COMMITTEE BOTH TIME AND MONEY IF IT DID START AN INVESTIGATION.

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20. AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING PRESENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, WHILE OTHER PERSONS HAVE APPEARED AS WITNESSES BEFORE A FEDERAL GRAND JURY HERE THAT HAS BEEN TAKING EVIDENCE IN THE CASE.

21. IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, MORE THAN 60 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES VISITED SOUTH KOREA AND WERE ENTERTAINED LAVISHLY.

22. REPRESENTATIVE LESTER L. WOLFF, DEMOCRAT OF NASSAU COUNTY, SAID OF ONE VISIT THERE THAT THERE WERE SO MANY FLOWERS IN HIS HOTEL ROOM THAT "IT LOOKED LIKE A FUNERAL PARLOR."

23. JUNKETS AT THE EXPENSE OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW, BUT SOME GOVERNMENTS HAVE FUNNELED MONEY TO PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS THAT IN TURN PAID THE EXPENSES.

24. "YOU KIND OF SMELL A MOUSE WITH ALL THE INVITATIONS THEY SENT OUT," MR. MICHEL SAID. HE SAID IT WAS IMMATERIAL TO HIM WHO CONDUCTED THE INQUIRY.

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25. MR. MCFALL SAID THROUGH A SPOKESMAN THAT HE WOULD "WELCOME AN INVESTIGATION." IN THE LAST MONTH MR. MCFALL HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIVING \$4,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PERSONS HERE WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING SOUTH KOREAN OPERATIVES.

26. ACCORDING TO MR. BURTON, "THE HOUSE MUST MEET ALLEGATIONS OF INFLUENCE PEDDLING HEAD ON." HE SAID HE THOUGHT SUCH AN INQUIRY SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN EITHER BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE OR THE G.A.O.

27. HE NOTED THAT THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH IS HEADED BY REPRESENTATIVE DONALD M. FRASER, DEMOCRAT OF MINNESOTA, HAD ORIGINALLY BROUGHT TO LIGHT THE ALLEGATIONS OF KOREAN INFLUENCE PEDDLING DURING HEARINGS LAST YEAR.

28. BUT THE LATEST HEARING WAS LAST JUNE, AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS-NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE MORE RECENT DISCLOSURES OF SOUTH KOREAN ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE UNITED STATES POLICY.(END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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